

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01     DACCA 03620 161135Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 AID-05 /080 W

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R 160915Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1359

INFO AMCONGEN CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 3620

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, BG

SUBJ: THE JSD AND THE CONSPIRACY TRIAL

1. THE JATIYO SAMAJTANTRIK DAL (JSD) HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO DRAW PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE CONSPIRACY TRIAL ON ITS LEADERS AT DACCA CITY JAIL. LEAFLETS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATED, LENGTHY APPEALS MAILED TO DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, AND ATTEMPTS MADE JULY 12 TO HOLD PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS.

2. A JSD-CIRCULATED LEAFLETS CALLED FOR A COUNTRY-WIDE PROTEST DAY ON JULY 12 TO PROTEST THE "HEINOUS CONSPIRACY TO UNDO DEMOCRACY AND ELECTIONS" AND TO CONDEMN THE "SECRET TRIAL OF PATRIOTIC LEADERS." THE LEAFLET CREDITS JSD LEADERS WITH BEING THE TRUE INSTIGATORS AND HEROES OF THE LIBERATION WAR AND ATTEMPTS ONCE MORE TO ESTABLISH THE PARTY'S ANTI-INDIAN CREDENTIALS. LABELING THE CONSPIRACY TRIAL A FARCE, THE JSD CLAIMS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED "LONG AGO TO HANG AND IMPRISON" THE PEOPLE ON TRIAL. THE TRIAL IS BEING HELD NOW, ACCRODING TO JSD, SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN USE THE ANTI-TRIAL SENTIMENT IN THE COUNTRYTO POSTPONE ELECTIONS BY CLAIMING THAT THERE IS NO "DEMOCRATIC ATMOSPHERE" IN THE COUNTRY AND THE COUNTRY IS IN DANGER.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02     DACCA 03620 161135Z

3. THE "COUNTRY-WIDE PROTEST", AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, RESULTED IN SCATTERED ATTEMPTS OF SMALL GROUPS OF JSD WORKERS TO DEMONSTRATE. MISSION EMPLOYEES WITNESSED ONE SUCH EFFORT OUTSIDE THE PURBANI HOTEL: EIGHT YOUNG MEN WERE CHANTING ANTI-TRIAL SLOGANS TO A SMALL CROWD OF PASSERS-BY. TWO PLAIN CLOTHES POLICE, ONE BRANDISHING A REVOLVER, BROKE UP THE DEMONSTRATION AND MANAGED TO TAKE INTO CUSTODY ONE OF THE PROTESTERS. ACCORDING TO A BANGLADESHI MISSION EMPLOYEE PRESENT AT THE SCENE, THE SMALL AUDIENCE WAS NOT SYMPATHETIC TO THE JSD WORKERS AND ACCUSED THEM OF TRYING TO MAKE TROUBLE. WE HAVE ALSO HAD REPORTS THAT SMALL ARMS FIRING WAS HEARD IN SOME PARTS OF DACCA ON JULY 12 AND THAT A GROUP ATTEMPTED TO BRING OUT A PROCESSION FROM THE UNIVERSITY JULY 13. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN OCCASIONAL PRESS REPORTS OF THE ARREST OF JSD MEMBERS, SOME OF WHOM ARE ACCUSED OF HAVING ILLEGAL ARMS. ONE OUTGROWTH OF THE JSD TRIAL AND THE COUNTER-PROTEST IS THAT THE RE-OPENING OF DACCA UNIVERSITY AFTER SUMMER VACATION HAS BEEN POSTPONED TWO WEEKS UNTIL JULY 28. UNIVERSITY CONTACTS TOLD USIS THAT THE UNIVERSITY WILL REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL THE TRIAL IS OVER AND "MAYBE AFTER THAT."

4. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL COPIES OF A 12-PAGE CYCLOSTYPED APPEAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY, PURPORTEDLY FROM THE JSD, TO "STEP FORWARD TO SAVE BANGLADESH AND HER PEOPLE FROM THE IMPENDING PERIL." IT IS SIGNED BY BIDHAN KRISHAN SEN, ACTING PRESIDENT, AND HARUNUR RASHID, ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY OF JSD. THE DOCUMENT IS AN ELABORATION OF THE LEAFLET BEING CIRCULATED BUT FAR HARSHER TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT. IT ACCUSES THE "MILITARY REGIME OF LETTING LOOSE "ONE OF THE VILEST CONSPIRACIES AND AUTOCRATIC REPRESSIONS OF HUMAN HISTORY." JSD ARGUES THAT THE MLA, HAVING NO REAL BASE OF POWER ITSELF, HAS BEGUN TO "LIQUIDATE JSD AND TO PHYSICALLY ELIMINATE ITS LEADERS AND LEADING CADRES" BECAUSE JSD IS THE BIGGEST, MOST ORGANIZED AND PEOPLE ORIENTED PARTY OF BANGLADESH." JSD WARNS THAT A BLOODY CIVIL WAR WILL RESULT FROM THE EFFORT AND THAT WORLD POWERS MIGHT BECOME INVOLVED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03      DACCA 03620 161135Z

5. THE DOCUMENT ACCUSES DCMLA GENERAL ZIAUR RAHMAN OF PLANNING TO RETAIN POWER BY CRUSHING THE JSD, THE ONLY CHALLENGE TO "HIS FASCIST AND AUTOCRATIC EXISTENCE", AND THEN BY POSTPONING ELECTIONS INDEFINITELY ON THE PLEA THAT THE JSD HAS DESTROYED THE ATMOSPHERE FOR DEMOCRACY. JSD CLAIMS THAT SINCE LIBERATION, THE JSD WORKERS HAVE BEEN THE VICTIMS OF "ATROCITIES, REPRESSIONS AND GENOCIDES." IT SPECIFICALLY ACCUSES THE MLA OF PHYSICALLY

AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY TORTURING POLITICAL PRISONERS.

6. AS FOR THE DACCA CITY JAIL TRIAL, THE JSD SAYS THAT THE ACCUSED ARE CHARGED WITH HAVING "FROM AS EARLY AS 1974 MADE INROADS INTO THE ARMED FORCES AND CONSPIRED TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED BY LAW THROUGH APPLICATION OF FORCE AND MASSUPSURGE." THE DOCUMENT CLAIMS THAT 30 PEOPLE ARE ON TRIAL AND EIGHT OTHERS ARE BEING TRIED IN ABSENTIA. IT FURTHER ACCUSES THE GOVERNMENT OF PLANNING A RIOT INSIDE THE JAIL DURING WHICH THE JSD LEADERS ARE TO BE MURDERED. IF THAT FAILS, JSD SAYS, TRIAL WILL CONCLUDE AND PREDETERMINED PUNISHMENT, INCLUDING POSSIBLY CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, WILL BE HANDED DOWN.

COMMENT. THE JSD PREDICTABLY INTERPRETS THE CONSPIRACY TRIAL AS AN ATTEMPT TO CRUSH A DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE-ORIENTED PARTY WHICH IS THE TRUE HEIR TO THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE AND THE REAL CHOICE OF THE PEOPLE. THE VARIOUS JSD PUBLICATIONS -- THE LEAFLETS, THE UNDERGROUND NEWSPAPER "LORAI" (STRUGGLE) AND THE APPEAL SENT TO MISSIONS -- ALSO TEND TO CONFIRM SOME OF THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRIAL BEING CIRCULATED IN DACCA. THE JSD IS NOT ALONE IN ATTRIBUTING TO THE MLA THE MOTIVE OF HOLDING THE TRIALS IN ORDER TO HAVE AN EXCUSE TO POSTPONE ELECTIONS. AS FOR THE JSD'S ACCUSATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD FOMENT A RIOT AT DACCA CITY JAIL, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE PRISONERS ARE NO LONGER AT THE JAIL. ACCORDING TO AN EMBASSY EMPLOYEE WITH GOOD POLICE CONTACTS, THE PRISONERS AND THE TRIAL HAVE BEEN SHIFTED FROM THE JAIL TO THE FORMER GANOBHABAN, THE HOUSE NEAR RAMNA PARK INITIALLY USED BY SHEIKH MUJIB AS HIS OFFICIAL RESIDENCE AFTER INDEPENDENCE. REPORTEDLY, THE GOVERNMENT THINKS THAT THERE ARE JSD CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04     DACCA 03620 161135Z

SYMPATHIZERS AMONG THE CITY JAILERS AND HENCE LAST WEEKEND MOVED THE PRISONERS UNDER GUARD OF THE POLICE AND THE BANGLADESH RIFLES. WE HAVE NOTED THAT ALL THE GUARD POSTS AT THE OLD GANOBHABAN ARE NOW MANNED BY METROPOLITAN POLICE, BUT THERE IS NO OTHER UNUSUAL ACTIVITY EVIDENT.  
BOSTER

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